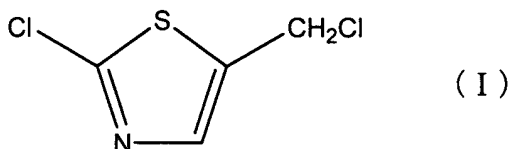


Amendments to the Claims

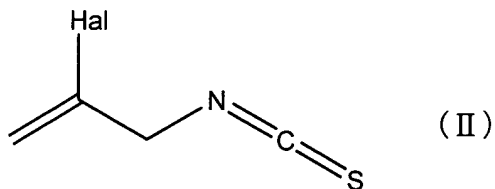
1. (Original) A process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole represented by the formula (I):



by distillation of a crude product thereof, comprising treating the crude product with a lower alcohol before the distillation.

2. (Original) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 1, wherein the treatment with the lower alcohol is carried out by adding the lower alcohol to the crude product of 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole, followed by stirring.

3. (Currently amended) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the crude product of 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a reaction mixture or a residue obtained by distilling the solvent from the reaction mixture, wherein the reaction mixture is obtained by reacting a 2-halogenoallyl isothiocyanate represented by the general formula (II):



(wherein Hal represents a chlorine atom or a bromine atom) with a chlorinating agent in the presence of a solvent.

4. (Original) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 3, wherein the crude product of 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a residue obtained by distilling the solvent from the reaction mixture.

5. (Original) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.

6. (Currently amended) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to any one of claims ~~3 to 5~~ or 4, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.